Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) A method for performing knowledge discovery comprising the steps of:

appending to each member of a data corpus one or more metatags, wherein said step of appending comprises the step of executing a ranking function;

selecting a subset of members from said data corpus whose appended metatags are a match to a set of criteria;

generating a set of pairwise associations between elements of said subset of members;

calculating a value, for each pairwise association, representative of the number of times that each respective pairwise association occurs across said subset of members; and

generating retrospective metatagging based on one or more of said set of pairwise associations, wherein said step of generating restrospective metatagging comprises the step of modifying said ranking function.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said one or more metatags describe content of a respective member of said data corpus.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said one or more metatags represent one or more concept classes contained in a respective member of said data corpus.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said one or more concept classes are inferred through the presence of one or more feature vectors in one or more respective members of said data corpus.

43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said set of criteria are selected by a user.

44. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said pairwise associations are pairwise associations between concepts.

45. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein said elements are nouns and/or noun phrases.

46. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of identifying pairwise associations having a respective said value reaching a predetermined threshold.

47. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a second subset of members from said data corpus whose retrospective metatags are a match to said set of criteria;

generating a second set of pairwise associations between elements of said second subset of members; and

calculating a second value, for each pairwise association, representative of the number of times that each respective pairwise association occurs across said second subset of members.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of modifying said set of criteria.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said elements are nouns and/or noun phrases and further comprising the step of identifying pairwise associations having a respective said second value reaching a predetermined threshold.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of extracting elements of said second subset of members associated with said identified pairwise associations having a respective said second value reaching said predetermined threshold.

51. (New) A method for performing knowledge discovery, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a first degree of correlation among a data corpus;

indexing members of said data corpus with metatags according to a metatagging scheme, wherein said metatagging scheme employs a first level of knowledge representation for said first degree of correlation and employs at least a second level of knowledge representation for a second degree of correlation among data, wherein said first and second levels of knowledge representation are representative of different degrees of correlation among data;

determining said second degree of correlation among a subset of said data corpus; and

reindexing said members of said data corpus with metatags according to said metatagging scheme based on said determined second degree of correlation.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of selecting said subset of members from said data corpus whose metatags are a match to a set of criteria.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of selecting a second subset of said data corpus whose reindexed metatags are a match to said set of criteria.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining a first degree of correlation comprises the step of identifying one or more concept classes contained in a respective member of said data corpus.

55. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining a first degree of correlation comprises the step of generating a set of pairwise associations of nouns and/or nouns phrases between elements of said subset of members.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of calculating a value, for each pairwise association, representative of the number of times that each respective pairwise association occurs across said subset of members.

57. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining a first degree of correlation comprises the step of generating a set of subject noun-verb-object noun associations drawn from a portion of said data corpus.

58. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining a first degree of correlation comprises the step of identifying context associations across a portion of said data corpus.

59. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining a first degree of correlation comprises the step of identifying semantic associations across a portion of said data corpus.

60. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said step of determining said second degree of correlation comprises the step of generating a set of pairwise associations of nouns and/or nouns phrases between elements of said subset of members.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of calculating a value, for each pairwise association, representative of the number of times that each respective pairwise association occurs across said subset of members.

62. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining said second degree of correlation comprises the step of generating a set of subject noun-verb-object noun associations drawn from a portion of said data corpus.

63. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining said second degree of correlation comprises the step of identifying context associations across a portion of said data corpus.

64. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said step of determining said second degree of correlation comprises the step of identifying semantic associations across a portion of said data corpus.

65. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said second level of knowledge representation is associated with a category of data selected from the group consisting of: nouns and/or nouns phrases, noun-verb-object noun associations, context associations, or semantic associations.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein said second level of knowledge representation is associated with a category of data selected from the group consisting of: noun-verb-object noun associations, context associations, or semantic associations.

67. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein said second level of knowledge representation is associated with a higher level of abstraction than said first level of knowledge representation.